DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 140 919 JC 770 364

AUTHOR Gold, Ben K.
TITLE Performance on the Fall 1976 L.A.C.C. Guidance Examination. Research Study #77-7.
INSTITUTION Los Angeles City Coll., Calif.
PUB DATE Aug 77
NOTE 13p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *College Freshmen; Community Colleges; English Curriculum; Institutional Research; *Junior Colleges; Junior College Students; *Reading Level; Reading Tests; Remedial Courses; *Screening Tests; Sex Differences; Student Ability; *Student Placement
IDENTIFIERS Survey of Reading Achievement

ABSTRACT

The scores of 1,907 entering freshmen on the Survey of Reading Achievement (advanced grades 9-12) were examined in the fall of 1976 at Los Angeles City College. Important findings included: (1) a 10th grade median reading level; (2) slightly better performance by males; (3) an average of 9.5 grade level for first-time enrollees (71%); (4) a performance below the overall average by students who last attended Los Angeles city high schools; (5) variance among Los Angeles high schools ranging from 8th to 12th grade levels; and (6) test scores which resulted in nearly equal divisions of students recommended to English 1, English 60, and Developmental Communications. These classes represent a grade-level division of 11th and above, 9th and 10th, and 8th and below, respectively. Frequency distributions are given by sex and for the total group according to the date the examination was taken, previous colleges attended, geographical location of last high school, individual Los Angeles city high schools, and percentage distribution by grade-level score. Distribution for English placement completes the tabular data, which constitutes the major part of this report. (RT)

**********
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
**********

ED140919

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

# "PERFORMANCE ON THE FALL 1976 L.A.C.C. GUIDANCE EXAMINATION"

Research Study #77 - 7

Ben K. Gold
Research Office
August, 1977

JC 770 364

"Performance on the Fall 1976 L.A.C.C.
Guidance Examination"

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In order to enroll in an English class at L.A.C.C., day students are required to show evidence that they have achieved minimum level on an appropriate reading test. The Counseling Center each semester offers the "Guidance Examination" for entering freshmen to provide them that evidence. The test used most frequently in the past several years has been the Survey of Reading Achievement (advanced grades 9 to 12), published by California Test Bureau. This study looks at the performance of students taking this test for entrance into L.A.C.C. for the Fall 1976 semester.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

With the cooperation of the Data Center, IBM cards were punched for each student taking the Guidance Examination. Variables included in the data were raw score, grade level (according to national norms furnished by the test publisher), English course recommendation as well as the student's name and sex, and codes for last high school and college attended. SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) programs, now available on the district computer, were used to provide frequency counts and raw score means and standard deviations for selected subsets of the data. Printouts from the programs were used as a basi for the analysis following.

FINDINGS

1,907 cards were punched for students taking the SRA test at one of six administrations of the Guidance Examination during the summer of 1976. Table 1 indicates raw score mean and standard deviation by sex for each of these six

FINDINGS (continued)

test dates and for the total group. Table 2 presents statistics according to previous college attended, Tables 3 and 4 according to location of last high school attended, with Table 3 indicating geographical areas and Table 4 looking at individual Los Angeles City high schools. Table 5 and Figure 1 show the distribution of student scores according to their grade level placement by the test. Also indicated are the percentages recommended for the various English levels. Percents recommended by the counseling staff for the various English courses will not match the figures shown here, as they make adjustments for students with foreign background, a factor not considered in this study.

TABLE 1 - Performance on L.A.C.C. Guidance Examination Fall 1976 by Date of Examination

| Date | Sex | Number | Raw Score Mean | Standard Dev. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| June 5, 1976 | Total | 154 | 48.5 | 19.2 |
| | Male | 86 | 48.4 | 19.5 |
| | Female | 68 | 48.6 | 19.0 |
| June 26, 1976 | Total | 172 | 45.0 | 16.6 |
| | Male | 68 | 47.3 | 16.6 |
| | Female | 104 | 43.5 | 16.5 |
| July 1, 1976 | Total | 220 | 42.9 | 18.0 |
| | Male | 82 | 42.9 | 17.8 |
| | Female | 138 | 42.9 | 18.2 |
| August 7, 1976 | Total | 318 | 47.8 | 18.5 |
| | Male | 115 | 49.1 | 19.2 |
| | Female | 203 | 47.0 | 18.1 |
| August 17, 1976 | Total | 535 | 46.1 | 19.6 |
| | Male | 216 | 45.8 | 18.7 |
| | Female | 319 | 46.4 | 20.3 |
| September 2, 1976 | Total | 503 | 45.6 | 19.2 |
| | Male | 245 | 46.3 | 20.1 |
| | Female | 258 | 44.9 | 18.2 |
| TOTAL | Total | 1907 | 46.0 | 18.9 |
| | Male | 812 | 46.5 | 19.0 |
| | Female | 1094 | 45.6 | 18.8 |

TABLE 2 - Performance on LACC Guidance Examination, Fall 1976 by Previous College Attended

| College | Sex | No. | Raw Score Mean | Standard Dev. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| None | Total | 1349 | 43.6 | 17.8 |
| | Male | 578 | 43.6 | 17.9 |
| | Female | 770 | 43.6 | 17.7 |
| LACCD | Total | 311 | 50.6 | 19.8 |
| | Male | 128 | 52.6 | 18.9 |
| | Female | 183 | 49.2 | 20.3 |
| Other 2 year colleges | Total | 93 | 55.3 | 19.0 |
| | Male | 37 | 56.5 | 19.8 |
| | Female | 56 | 54.6 | 18.6 |
| CSU | Total | 12 | 49.6 | 19.1 |
| | Male | 5 | 48.6 | 27.1 |
| | Female | 7 | 50.3 | 13.4 |
| University of California | Total | 17 | 67.6 | 24.4 |
| | Male | 9 | 75.0 | 19.9 |
| | Female | 8 | 59.3 | 27.5 |
| Other | Total | 125 | 50.0 | 20.7 |
| | Male | 55 | 51.3 | 20.2 |
| | Female | 70 | 49.0 | 21.1 |
| TOTAL | Total | 1907 | 46.0 | 18.9 |
| | Male | 812 | 46.5 | 19.0 |
| | Female | 1094 | 45.6 | 18.8 |

TABLE 3 - Performance on L.A.C.C. Guidance Examination Fall 1976 by Area of Last High School Attended

| | Sex | No. | Raw Score Mean | Standard Dev. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Not stated | Total | 186 | 37.1 | 18.4 |
| | Male | 100 | 36.3 | 17.2 |
| | Female | 85 | 38.4 | 19.4 |
| LA City Schools | Total | 934 | 44.4 | 17.4 |
| | Male | 387 | 46.5 | 17.7 |
| | Female | 547 | 42.9 | 17.0 |
| Other Calif. Public | Total | 148 | 53.5 | 19.4 |
| | Male | 54 | 54.0 | 18.6 |
| | Female | 94 | 53.2 | 19.9 |
| Calif. Private | Total | 91 | 53.8 | 17.9 |
| | Male | 26 | 51.4 | 21.1 |
| | Female | 65 | 54.8 | 16.6 |
| Western States | Total | 29 | 52.1 | 19.1 |
| | Male | 8 | 57.4 | 23.4 |
| | Female | 21 | 50.1 | 17.4 |
| West Central States | Total | 18 | 68.7 | 19.3 |
| | Male | 10 | 73.3 | 12.0 |
| | Female | 8 | 63.0 | 25.6 |
| Central States | Total | 55 | 58.7 | 19.9 |
| | Male | 19 | 63.5 | 19.1 |
| | Female | 36 | 56.2 | 21.0 |
| South Central States | Total | 28 | 60.3 | 20.0 |
| | Male | 13 | 60.3 | 20.0 |
| | Female | 15 | 60.3 | 20.9 |
| Southern States | Total | 91 | 43.9 | 16.6 |
| | Male | 43 | 46.2 | 17.2 |
| | Female | 48 | 41.9 | 16.0 |
| North Eastern States | Total | 90 | 59.6 | 18.1 |
| | Male | 37 | 62.6 | 18.0 |
| | Female | 53 | 58.2 | 18.1 |
| Foreign | Total | 237 | 40.0 | 17.1 |
| | Male | 115 | 38.7 | 16.0 |
| | Female | 122 | 41.2 | 18.2 |
| TOTAL | Total | 1907 | 46.0 | 18.9 |
| | Male | 812 | 46.5 | 19.0 |
| | Female | 1094 | 45.6 | 18.8 |

TABLE 4 - Performance on L.A.C.C. Guidance Examination Fall 1976 by Last High School Attended: L. A. City Schools

| High School | Sex | No. | Raw Score Mean | Standard Dev. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belmont | Total | 142 | 44.8 | 16.9 |
| | Male | 52 | 49.3 | 18.3 |
| | Female | 90 | 42.2 | 15.5 |
| Crenshaw | Total | 31 | 40.3 | 13.0 |
| | Male | 9 | 46.7 | 15.0 |
| | Female | 22 | 37.6 | 11.3 |
| Dorsey | Total | 37 | 40.0 | 14.2 |
| | Male | 16 | 38.4 | 18.8 |
| | Female | 21 | 41.2 | 9.7 |
| Eagle Rock | Total | 10 | 67.2 | 17.8 |
| | Male | 4 | 52.3 | 13.5 |
| | Female | 6 | 77.2 | 12.8 |
| Fairfax | Total | 53 | 52.9 | 16.4 |
| | Male | 26 | 53.7 | 15.9 |
| | Female | 27 | 52.2 | 17.2 |
| Franklin | Total | 22 | 45.0 | 18.1 |
| | Male | 10 | 49.5 | 23.2 |
| | Female | 12 | 41.2 | 12.2 |
| Fremont | Total | 30 | 34.9 | 12.2 |
| | Male | 4 | 31.0 | 10.5 |
| | Female | 26 | 35.5 | 12.5 |
| Gardena | Total | 11 | 53.0 | 21.8 |
| | Male | 4 | 51.0 | 22.3 |
| | Female | 7 | 54.1 | 23.2 |
| Hamilton | Total | 20 | 45.2 | 20.2 |
| | Male | 9 | 46.0 | 16.5 |
| | Female | 11 | 44.5 | 23.6 |
| Hollywood | Total | 79 | 53.5 | 19.4 |
| | Male | 38 | 50.7 | 19.0 |
| | Female | 41 | 56.2 | 19.7 |

Continued on next page

TABLE 4 (continued)

| High School | Sex | No. | Raw Score Mean | Standard Dev. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jefferson | Total | 43 | 35.8 | 15.1 |
| | Male | 12 | 38.2 | 11.5 |
| | Female | 31 | 34.9 | 16.3 |
| Jordan | Total | 13 | 32.2 | 9.4 |
| | Male | 3 | 20.0 | 2.6 |
| | Female | 10 | 35.8 | 7.2 |
| Lincoln | Total | 11 | 36.5 | 5.3 |
| | Male | 3 | 34.3 | 6.8 |
| | Female | 8 | 37.4 | 4.9 |
| Locke | Total | 21 | 34.2 | 8.1 |
| | Male | 10 | 35.8 | 7.2 |
| | Female | 11 | 32.7 | 8.9 |
| Los Angeles | Total | 72 | 45.0 | 17.5 |
| | Male | 30 | 49.4 | 19.7 |
| | Female | 42 | 41.8 | 15.1 |
| Manual Arts | Total | 44 | 36.5 | 12.5 |
| | Male | 17 | 38.0 | 11.1 |
| | Female | 27 | 35.6 | 13.5 |
| Marshall | Total | 70 | 51.6 | 17.9 |
| | Male | 38 | 51.3 | 18.6 |
| | Female | 32 | 51.3 | 18.6 |
| North Hollywood | Total | 4 | 49.5 | 22.2 |
| | Male | 2 | 32.0 | 12.7 |
| | Female | 2 | 67.0 | 9.9 |
| Roosevelt | Total | 16 | 44.9 | 18.9 |
| | Male | 10 | 50.2 | 18.1 |
| | Female | 6 | 36.2 | 18.2 |
| University | Total | 5 | 39.4 | 19.6 |
| | Female | 5 | 39.4 | 19.6 |
| Washington | Total | 37 | 34.3 | 11.7 |
| | Male | 18 | 36.1 | 14.2 |
| | Female | 19 | 32.6 | 8.6 |

Continued on next page

TABLE 4 (continued)

| High School | Sex | No. | Raw Score Mean | Standard Dev. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Westchester | Total | 4 | 32.0 | 22.3 |
| | Female | 4 | 32.0 | 22.3 |
| Wilson | Total | 12 | 47.0 | 15.1 |
| | Male | 3 | 44.7 | 6.0 |
| | Female | 9 | 47.8 | 17.4 |
| Other LA City | Total | 147 | 44.5 | 16.5 |
| | Male | 69 | 46.4 | 16.8 |
| | Female | 78 | 42.8 | 16.2 |
| TOTAL | Total | 1907 | 46.0 | 18.9 |
| | Male | 812 | 46.5 | 19.0 |
| | Female | 1094 | 45.6 | 18.8 |

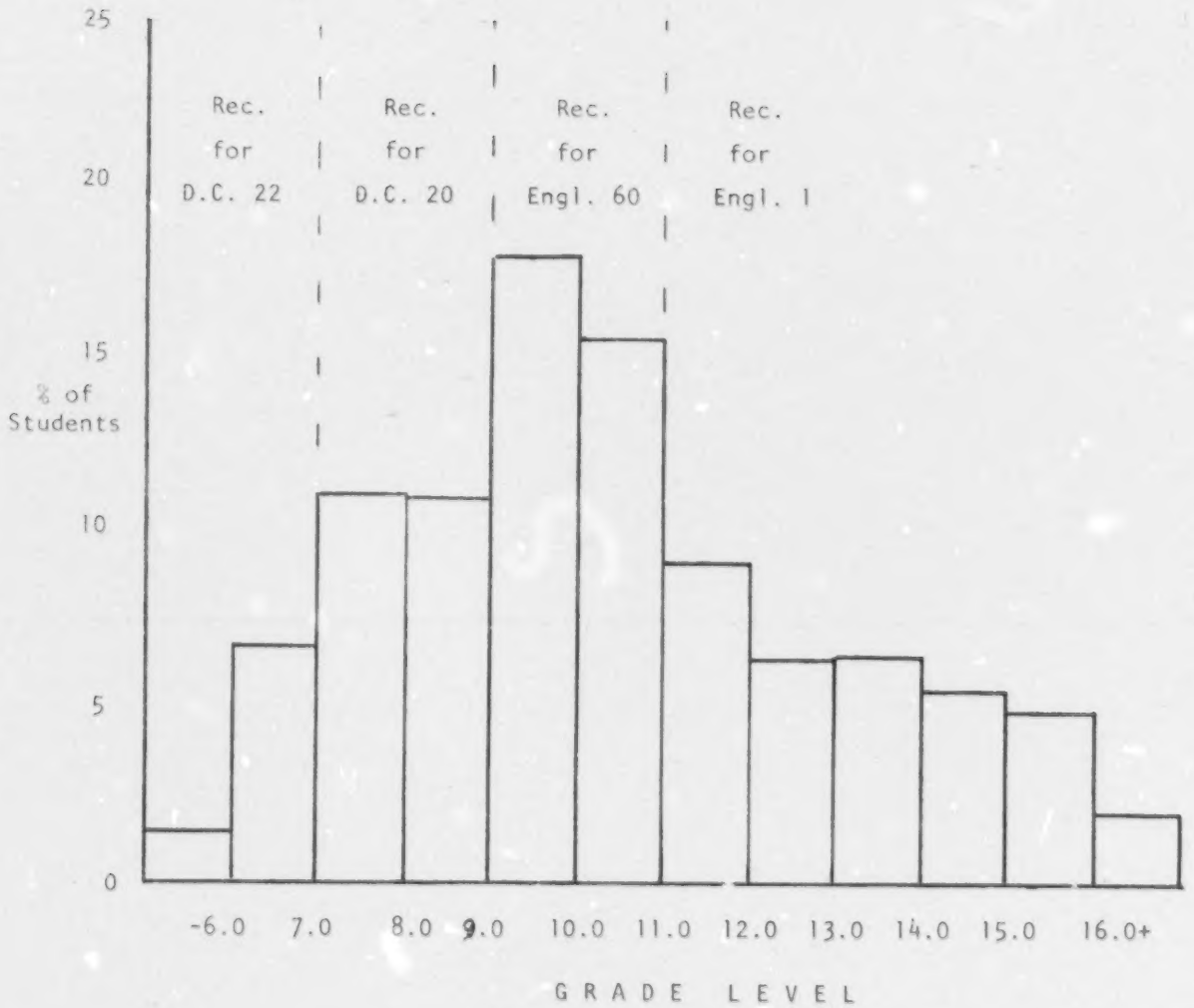
TABLE 5 - Percentage Distribution of Students Taking the Fall 1976 L.A.C.C. Guidance Examination According to Grade Level

| Grade Level | Raw Score | % of Students | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16.0+ | 93+ | 2.1 | Recommended for English 1 (35.1%) |
| 15.0 - 15.9 | 83 - 92 | 5.0 | |
| 14.0 - 14.9 | 75 - 82 | 5.6 | |
| 13.0 - 13.9 | 67 - 74 | 6.6 | |
| 12.0 - 12.9 | 61 - 66 | 6.5 | |
| 11.0 - 11.9 | 55 - 60 | 9.3 | |
| 10.0 - 10.9 | 48 - 54 | 15.8 | Recommended for English 60 (34.0%) |
| 9.0 - 9.9 | 39 - 47 | 18.2 | |
| 8.0 - 8.9 | 33 - 38 | 11.2 | Recommended for Development Communications 20 (22.5%) |
| 7.0 - 7.9 | 27 - 32 | 11.3 | |
| 6.0 - 6.9 | 19 - 26 | 6.9 | Recommended for Developmental Communications 22 (8.4%) |
| 5.9 - | 0 - 18 | 1.5 | |

Median Grade Level: 10.0

Grade Level for Mean Raw Score: 9.8

FIGURE 1 - Grade Level Distribution on Fall 1976 L.A.C.C. Guidance Examination



CONCLUSIONS

Following are some observations on the performance of 1,907 L.A.C.C. students who took the Fall 1976 Guidance Examination:

(1) Median reading grade level was beginning of tenth grade.

(2) Males (43% of total) performed slightly better than females.

(3) 71% of those taking the test were in college for the first time. Grade level for the average raw score of these students was 9.5..

(4) Average performance for students who last attended a Los Angeles city high school was below the overall average.

(5) Performance according to particular L.A. high school varied markedly; with averages ranging from 8th to 12th grade level.

(6) Present practices recommend about a third of the students for English 1 (grade level 11th or above), a third for English 60 (9th - 10th grade level), and a third for Developmental Communications (8th grade level and below).

* * * * * * * * * * *

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES
NOV 2 1977
CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES